

MINUTES

City Council Meeting

Monday, August 20, 2012 – 7:00 p.m.

Call to Order: Mayor Holder welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Opening: Councilmember Bethune offered the opening prayer and Mayor Holder invited everyone to join in the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

Roll Call:

Members Present: Mayor Holder presided. Council Members: Don Bethune, Bruce Campbell, Rosetta Cody, Scott George, and Judy Shuman. **Absent:** Bessie Kicklighter

Staff Present: Brian Johnson, City Manager; Ron Feldner, Deputy City Manager; Rhonda Ferrell-Bowles, Clerk of Council; James P. Gerard, City Attorney; Ben Brengman, IT Director; Pam Franklin, HR Director; Charles Draeger, Water Operations Director; Benny Googe, Public Works Director; Cliff Ducey, Parks & Recreation Director; David Lyons, Chief of Police, Jimmy Crosby, Fire Chief and Scott Allison, PED Director. **Absent:** Cory Salley, Finance Director

Board & Committee Minutes/Reports: PED Director presented the Planning Commission/BOA minutes dated 8-14-12.

Informal Public Comment: Mayor Holder opened the Informal Public Comment portion of the meeting.

Reverend Gary Monroe, 46 Hawkinsville Road, said I am here as the President of the Homestead Association representing Mr. Leonard Hodges. He said Mr. Hodges made a petition to County Commission Dean Kicklighter to extend the CAT bus service to the Heidt Avenue area. He said I have spoken with several businesses in that area and they are open to having the bus service extended so patrons will have transportation to their businesses. He said all residents should be afforded transportation. He said we will be discussing extending the CAT service at our next meeting of the Homestead Association on August 27th. He said CAT Board Members along with County Commissioners will be attending this important meeting. He said I would like to invite you all to attend.

Mayor Holder said we will not be able to attend due to having our regularly scheduled City Council Workshop on August 27th.

Mr. Hodges said there are handicap people and young adults in the area that need bus service provided to them. He said I ask that you put this on your agenda.

Reverend Monroe asked the Mayor and City Council Members if they had received a letter from Russ Abolt, County Manager regarding this matter. He said it was sent to your City Manager on August 12th.

Mayor Holder said not yet, but I am sure we will get a copy.

Mr. Leonard Hodges, 3801 Old Louisville Road said I talked to Councilmember Campbell and Councilmember Bethune about getting the CAT bus service extended. He said it is a good project for all of us to work on, because it will help our handicap residents and our young adults.

Councilmember Bethune asked the City Manager to open dialogue with CAT, etc. on this matter.

City Manager said we will have a staff member present at the Homestead Association Meeting.

There being no further questions or comments, Mayor Holder closed the informal public comment portion of the meeting.

Formal Public Comment: Mayor Holder said we have Representatives from GPA and Environmental Sound Study Consultants here tonight to present the results of the Sound Study.

City Manager said we partnered with the Georgia Ports Authority to have a joint Sound Study performed to look into the noise issue.

Jamie McCurry, GPA Director of Administrative Services introduced Mr. Douglas Bell of Cavanaugh Tocci Associated, Inc., who presented to City Council the results of the Sound Study.

Mr. Bell said we were asked to perform an environmental sound study in the community west of the GPA Terminal. He said we selected four locations to place our testing equipment – (1) 115 Main Street, (2) Water Tower on Rommel Avenue, (3) 44 Lynn Avenue, and (4) 9 Lynn Avenue. He said the testing involved long continuous and short term molding. He explained the scale used to measure sound decimals and study results. (*Reference Sound Study Report*)

Councilmember Bethune said the report is very detailed. He asked if GPA was only operating at 50% capacity during the testing.

Mr. McCurry said the sound monitoring was performed during a seven day timeframe which represents a full seven day schedule of loading and unloading the ships.

Councilmember Bethune asked if any other equipment noise was identified in the study.

Mr. Bell said mainly the cranes.

Councilmember Bethune said if we receive a complaint of noise in the future how accurate would it be to use hand held sound monitoring devices.

Mr. Bell said our instruments are accurate. He said you could use a hand held device, but you would not get a true evaluation. He said what is important is report ability.

Councilmember Bethune thanked the GPA Representatives and Sound Study Consultants for their work. He said I look at this as being a good neighbor. He said Jamie indicated that GPA was doing internal changes to the rail system.

Mr. McCurry said Norfolk Southern is expanding their rail system and adding a wye. He said this will allow their trains to come in and leave in the same direction which will free up approximately twenty at grade crossings.

Councilmember Bethune said you all are already making changes to help the noise issue.

Mr. McCurry said yes, mufflers and white noise devices. He said the loud banging that several residents complained of at the Town Meeting has been handled. He said it was not us making the banging noise, but a contractor located in a yard right up against Highway 25. He said we moved them to the back of our facilities alleviate the noise.

Mr. McCurry said we are also extending the berm/buffer along Highway 25 which will help to lessen the noise.

Councilmember Bethune said what is the timeline to change out the mufflers on the cranes?

Mr. Chris Novak, GPA Director of Engineering said we have ordered the mufflers, but there is about a fourteen to sixteen week lead time. He said as soon as we receive them we will install them.

Councilmember George said you all are doing a great job. He said how many machines, do you have to change the mufflers on.

Mr. Novak said there are fourteen machines. He said the motion alarms have been completed.

Councilmember George said the berm/buffer work is going up along Highway 25.

Mr. McCurry said the fifteen feet berm/buffer is adjacent to the Chatham Yard. He said once this is finished it will serve as a sound barrier.

Councilmember George asked if there will be another report since there are two consultants here tonight.

City Manager said it is up to you all if you wish additional information.

Councilmember George said after the changes are implemented will there be follow up testing.

Mr. Bell said the changes were specific to the Chatham Yard and there is no follow up testing planned unless it is requested.

Mr. Mike Smith with W.D. Schock Company said I reviewed the study for the City. He said the FAA & FHA commenced the studies being performed in areas where people live by train tracks, airports, etc. He said that it has been proven that noise can impact people both psychologically and physically. He said anything above 65 decibels you are impacting people. He said 65 and lower is the base live standard.

Councilmember Bethune said noise levels for cities to try to control, is hard to do. He said Portland Oregon has three noise levels – 50 Residential, 55 Commercial, and 60 Industrial.

Mr. Smith said it is difficult. He said you would have to perform seven day monitoring and establish noise levels. He said the most impact on people is after 10:00 p.m. when they are trying to sleep and prior to 6:00 a.m.

Councilmember George asked if Mr. Smith agrees with the recommendations in the report.

Mr. Smith said I would agree with the recommendations. He said they performed a good and thorough study.

Councilmember George asked the City Manager to explain why we divided the cost.

City Manager said we shared the cost to share the data.

Councilmember George said how much have we paid.

City Manager said I believe the study cost \$46,000.

Councilmember George said how much did our firm cost?

City Manager said there hasn't been a lot paid. He said I do not have the numbers in front of me tonight.

Councilmember Bethune said I think our portion of the study was \$14,000.

Councilmember George said that is what I thought.

City Manager said again I do not have those numbers here with me tonight. He said I will have get back to you on the cost.

Mayor Holder opened the floor to receive questions and comments from the public on the GPA Sound Study.

Mr. Jimmy Blakey, 141 Azalea Avenue, asked if the new noise devices are the same ones used by the Houston Texas Port.

Mr. Smith said I would say they are comparable to the ones used at the Houston Port, but the container stacks are higher at GPA than Houston. He said probably larger cranes are used at GPA.

Mr. Blakey asked if the noise devices will go on all the cranes.

Mr. Novak said the cranes have been changed to white noise devices.

Mr. David Warren, 65 Azalea Avenue, asked has anything been done to eliminate the noise.

Mr. Novak said yes we have installed the white noise devices.

Mr. Warren inquired if the study had any findings on the train whistle noise.

Mr. Bell said the max level of the train whistle noise was 73 decibels at the Water Tower site. He said but it is only a short term noise event. He said it would have to be a long term noise event with a value of 62.

Mr. Warren said my problem is the trains.

Mr. McCurry said the train noise should be reduced due to the internal rail system changes taking place inside the Ports. He said when these changes are completed twenty at grade crossings can be avoided.

Mayor Holder thanked the GPA Representatives and Sound Study Consultants for their work.

Mr. McCurry thanked Mayor, City Council, and the residents of Garden City for their patience while everyone worked together to resolve this issue.

Mayor Holder and City Council thanked GPA for being a good neighbor and continuing their good working relationship with Garden City.

There being no further questions or comments, Mayor Holder closed the Formal Public Comment portion of the meeting.

City Council Minutes: Upon motion by Councilmember Shuman, seconded by Councilmember Cody, City Council voted unanimously to approve the minutes dated 8/6/12.

Staff Reports:

In the absence of the Finance Director the City Manager presented the Finance Department's Monthly Status Report.

Water Operations Director presented the Water Operations Department's Monthly Status Report.

Fire Chief presented the Fire Department's Monthly Status Report.

Police Chief presented the Police Department's Monthly Status Report.

Police Chief said he attended the Police Chief's Association Convention and was elevated to 1st Vice President. He said the CALEA assessors were very favorable of the department.

Councilmember Bethune said when will you know the results?

Chief Lyons said at the conference held in Florida during the month of November.

Councilmember Bethune said what is the life cycle for the vests?

Chief Lyons said we purchase the very best and their life span is about five years. He said we get reimbursed for 50% of the cost. He said a lot of the Officers have started wearing a one piece shirt type vest which is more comfortable. He said we do allow Officers to opt out of wearing a vest if they choose to, but they have to sign a waiver. He said the majority of the Officers wear the vests.

Councilmember George said it was my first time attending a CALEA public hearing. He said everyone spoke highly of the police department and it was a very proud moment for me.

Councilmember George said can you update us on the State Transportation Officers performing the commercial vehicle inspections.

Chief Lyons said it is not working out. He said they are not performing a high number of inspections. He said a reporter from the Atlanta Constitutional called me to get a quote on this ongoing matter. He said the State is not capable of doing this.

Councilmember George said my number one concern is the tractor trailer traffic in Garden City.

City Manager said we received two citizen concerns at the last City Council Meeting. He said one was the status of the GPA Sound Study. He said I believe the GPA Sound Study presented earlier answered his questions. He said second was the Azalea Ave. RR Xing Closing. He said staff is in conversations with the Railroad and in the next couple of months staff will bring before you a comprehensive look at closing the at grade crossings.

Items for Consideration:

Second Reading, Ordinance Amendment Water/Sewer Bills Adjustments: Clerk of Council read for the second reading an ordinance to amend Article V of Chapter 82 of the Code of Ordinances of Garden City, Georgia, as amended, relative to water and sewer rates and charges for the purpose of re-establishing a policy for adjusting water/sewer bills of customers who have completed a repair of a water leak; to repeal all ordinances in conflict herewith; to provide an effective date; and for other purposes.

Upon motion by Councilmember Shuman, seconded by Councilmember Cody, City Council voted unanimously to adopt the ordinance on the second reading.

Resolution, Amendment to Regular City Council Schedule: Mayor Holder read a resolution to amend the regular meeting schedule of the Garden City City Council; to eliminate the September 3, 2012, regular meeting of City Council in observance of Labor Day; and to establish a meeting of City Council on Tuesday, September 4, 2012.

Upon Motion by Councilmember Shuman, seconded by Councilmember Cody, City Council voted unanimously to adopt the resolution.

Resolution, Capital Improvement Element Plan: Mayor Holder read a resolution to submit the annual update of the Capital Improvements Element covering the period 2012 to 2016 to the Coastal Regional Commission and the Georgia Department of Community Affairs for official review.

Upon motion by Councilmember Bethune, seconded by Councilmember Campbell, City Council voted unanimously to adopt the resolution

Resolution, ADA Transition Plan: Mayor Holder read a resolution authorizing and approving of the adoption of the City of Garden City ADA Transition Plan.

Upon motion by Councilmember Shuman, seconded by Councilmember George, City Council voted unanimously to adopt the resolution.

Resolution, “Keep Chatham Beautiful” Endorsement: Mayor Holder read a resolution endorsing and supporting the City of Garden City’s participation with the Keep Chatham Beautiful.

Upon motion by Councilmember Bethune, seconded by Councilmember George, City Council voted unanimously to adopt the resolution

Keep Chatham Beautiful Board Nomination: Mayor Holder said we have for consideration appointing Scott George, Mayor Pro-tem, David Lyons, Police Chief and Elaine Barnard, Secretary of the Garden City Beautification Committee to serve as The City’s representatives on the Keep Chatham Beautiful Board.

Upon motion by Councilmember Shuman, seconded by Councilmember Bethune, City Council voted unanimously to appoint Scott George, Mayor Pro-tem, David Lyons, Police Chief and Elaine Barnard, Secretary of the Garden City Beautification Committee to serve as the City’s representatives on the Keep Chatham Beautiful Board.

Councilmember George said we are teaming up with Chatham County on this project and our first meeting will be held tomorrow.

Resolution, Energy Excise Tax Intergovernmental Agreement: Clerk of Council read a resolution of Garden City, Georgia, approving and authorizing execution by the Mayor of Garden City, Georgia, of an intergovernmental agreement between the City and Chatham County, Georgia, concerning an energy excise tax enacted pursuant to Article 6 Chapter 13 of Title 48 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated; repealing prior resolutions in conflict; and for other purposes.

Upon motion by Councilmember Bethune, seconded by Councilmember George, City Council voted unanimously to adopt the resolution.

City Manager said it is Chatham County’s intent to levy the energy excise tax. He said if we don’t enter into the agreement then the County can collect our share and keep it.

Fire Department Surplus Equipment: Mayor Holder said we have for consideration declaring the following Fire Department items as surplus equipment:

- 1982 Chevrolet E-one Fire Truck with Detroit diesel 500 cubic inch Allison MT-643 Transmission (Serial No. C17DGAV150595)
- (32) Scott 50 SCBA
- (2) Hurst Spreaders
- (2) Hurst Cutters

Upon motion by Councilmember Shuman, seconded by Councilmember Cody, City Council voted unanimously to declare the items as surplus equipment.

Telfair Place (West) Gravity Sewer Extension Cost Share Agreement: Mayor Holder said we have for consideration a Cost Share Agreement between the City and Vinte Holdings, LLC (Savannah Auto) and Southeastern Carpenters Training Trust (Carpenters Local 256) for the construction of new sewer lines to extend the gravity sewer on Telfair Place (West).

Upon motion by Councilmember Bethune, seconded by Councilmember Shuman, City Council voted unanimously to approve entering into the cost share agreement.

Adjournment: Upon motion by Councilmember Bethune, seconded by Councilmember Shuman, City Council voted unanimously to adjourn at 8:32 p.m.

Transcribed by Rhonda Ferrell-Bowles, Clerk of Council

Approved by City Council: 9/4/12